

09/582253

534 Rec PCT/PTO 22 JUN 2000

Express Mail Mailing Label No. EL582856745US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
ACTING AS THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE

Applicant: Christopher Richardson)
Application: PCT/GB99/00262) Attorney Docket: ULT4084P0160US
Int. Filing Date: 26 January 1999) Associate Docket: P4027

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
UPON ENTRY INTO NATIONAL STAGE

Box PCT
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please cancel claims 1 through 12 and substitute claims 13 through 20 as set forth below:

13. A connecting device suitable for attaching a pipe to a surface comprising a first part fixable to the surface and a second part slidably attachable to the first part in the direction of the pipe to a limited extent and forming an at least partial enclosure for the pipe, the first and second parts having co-operating formations enabling the attachment of the second part to the first part to be selectively adjustable, whereby spacing of the pipe from the surface is adjustable.

14. A device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the first part is U-shaped providing a base, which is arranged to be fixed to the surface, and providing arms extending from the base.

15. A device as claimed in claim 13 or 14, wherein the second part is U-shaped having a base and an arm extending from each end of the base.

16. A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the arms of the first and second parts are interchangeable.